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January 21, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

I am writing today to request that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for the following reasons:

- Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. They pose a risk of bacterial contamination, as well as a form of BSE, or "Mad Cow Disease."
- Downed animals are moved inhumanely, often dragged or pushed, causing them more injuries.
- Downed animals make up a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- Removing the market for downed animals will give incentive to the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place. 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling.
- Downed animals are living creatures that experience pain and suffering just as we do. It is our responsibility as humans to treat them humanely.

Please consider this request seriously, as it will benefit both animals and humans.

Sincerely,

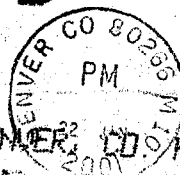
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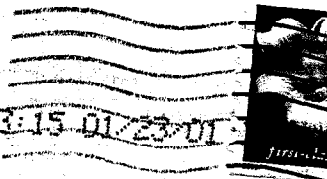
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VE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES



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